

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Annual Tribute to 9-11's Fallen Heroes Marks Eight Year**

Salisbury, NC – September 5, 2009\_Chief Bob Parnell of the Salisbury Fire Department, announced today that local fire, rescue, emergency and law enforcement personnel will pay homage to their fallen brothers and sisters during a 9-11 Memorial Ceremony, to take place on Friday, September 11. The community is cordially invited to attend the morning service which marks the eighth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Washington, DC. The service will be held at the Salisbury-Rowan Firefighters' Memorial, located adjacent to Chestnut Hill Cemetery, 1400 South Main Street.

Chief Parnell has kindly requested that attendees assemble at the Firefighter's Memorial by 8:45 am; a designated area will be provided for wheelchair accessibility. At approximately 8:55 am, Honor Guards from the Salisbury Police and the Rowan County Sheriff's Departments will commence with the Presentation of Colors. In the spirit of solidarity, as exhibited by emergency service workers during the events of September 11, the Rowan County Fire and Rescue Honor Guard will accept and subsequently raise the American flag. Bagpiper David Thornburg will offer a Piper's Selection, followed by the Advancement of Wreath by Rowan County Emergency Services workers.

Welcome remarks will be offered by Chief Deputy Kevin Auten, Rowan County Sheriff's Office, with the invocation delivered by Reverend Mike Taylor, Chaplain for the Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz and Rowan County Commission Chairman Carl Ford will also provide remarks during the service. Chief Parnell shares that a special recognition ceremony will occur in remembrance of fire and rescue personnel who have passed away during this last year. Those to be remembered during the service are:

Floyd Morgan, Union Fire Department  
Van Brown, Faith Fire Department  
Thomas Neill Jr., Spencer Fire Department  
Walter Bostian, Millers Ferry Fire Department  
Robert Hunter, Woodleaf Fire Department  
Telecommunicator Mary Ruth Rogers, Salisbury Fire Department  
Captain James David (Sonny) Livengood, Salisbury Fire Department  
Engineer William (Bill) Cross, Salisbury Fire Department  
Walter Chaney, Salisbury Fire Department  
Alward (Mac) MacDonald, Atwell Fire Department

Chester Basinger, Salisbury Fire Department  
Telecommunicator Robin Foster, Rowan County Telecommunications

The Ringing of the Bell service will include the ceremonial chiming of the bell five times, in three distinct sets, signifying the “last return home.” A moment of silence will follow and will be observed for precisely one minute, marking the collapse of the first World Trade Center tower. The Placement of the Wreath will follow with a traditional bagpiper’s rendition of Amazing Grace. The service will be dismissed following the closing prayer.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council shares, “By gathering as a community of fellowship on September 11, we are able to honor and remember the sincere heroism and selfless acts of the brave men and women who responded on that fateful day. Through their quiet valor and dedication, we are able to witness this same spirit through the daily service provided by our local fire, police, rescue, and emergency medical service workers. Their constant dedication and compassion offer a courageous testimony to the memory of those who perished during 9-11, to the strength of the American people, and to the cherished resilience of our nation’s spirit. I encourage our citizens and all emergency service personnel to attend the Memorial Service on September 11, as we uplift the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, so that others might be saved.”

Chief Parnell shares that through a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), Congress authorized and requested former President George W. Bush to designate September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day.” The proclamation followed in 2002. Flags are to be flown at half staff in observance of the day; American flags that are posted at a stationary position are to be draped with a black sash or a black ribbon in observance. Citizens are encouraged to attend appropriate ceremonies, activities, and remembrance services to pay tribute to our nation’s fallen heroes. In addition, citizens are requested to display flags at their homes at half mast and observe a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Citizens are advised that during the 9-11 Memorial Service, a portion of South Main Street will be blocked to traffic beginning at 8:20 am. The street is scheduled to reopen by approximately 9:30 am. For more information regarding the 9-11 Memorial Service, please contact the Salisbury Fire Department to speak with Captain M.T. Moore at 704-638-4465 or Battalion Chief Chris Kepley at 704-638-4451.

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